Scheme for improvements of certain roads in the Mattancheri Municipality.

363. Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—With reference to the answer to Question No. 315 (a), on 10th August 1934, will the Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the Report of the Committee appointed to consider over the Mattancheri Municipal Chairman's report R. O. C. No. 1465/1106, dated 20th June 1933?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.— The Committee has not submitted the Report yet.

Trichur Municipal Chairman—removal from office.

364. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.— Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether there is any truth in the news published in the *Gomathi* that the present Chairman of the Trichur Municipality has been called upon by the Diwan to show cause why he (the Chairman) should not be removed from office;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what are the charges against the Chairman;

(c) under which section of the Municipal Regulation is action taken against the Chairman?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.— (a), (b) and (c) Government regret that the matter being confidential, the information asked for cannot be furnished.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—With regard to sub-section (a) my enquiry was whether there is any truth in the news published in the 'Gomathi' that the present Chairman of the Trichur Municipality has been called upon by the Diwan to show cause why the Chairman should not be removed from Office. It must have been seen by the Government also. The Government have now replied that the matter being confidential the information asked for cannot be furnished. It has already been published in one of the dailies. We have already read it. We only want to know whether there is any truth in the Statement made by the 'Gomathi'.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Government do not object to the member's asking for information. Their only objection is that the matter being confidential the information asked for cannot be given.

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—The question was put with the object of getting an answer.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Some time ago there were enquiries regarding the Municipal Chairman of the Chittur and Mattancherry Municipalities. Were those enquiries kept confidential ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I want notice.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Is there any special reason why this enquiry should have been a confidential one?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Government have only answered that the matter is confidential. Details about it cannot be divulged.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Is there any enquiry or not. There is nothing confidential in saying whether there is any enquiry or not.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The question is quite plain but the subject matter of it is confidential.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—I want an answer to the question. It is only a question of plain fact. Is there any sort of enquiry confidential or otherwise conducted ?

Mr. A. Sankara Menon.—On a point of order. The question is not answered and so no supplementary question can be asked. What is given is only an answer for the refusal of answering the question. It is not an answer to the point.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—It is said "The matter being confidential" may I know what the matter is ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The matter of the question.

P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know whether the Government have seen in the news column of the popular "Gomathi" something published to the effect that the Chairman of the Trichur Municipality has been called upon by the Government to show cause why he should not be removed from Office.

Mr. A. Sankara Menon.—The point of order raised by me may be disposed of by the Chair.

President.—My ruling is that the question has been answered, because the answer given by the Government is "Government regret that the matter being confidential the information asked for cannot be furnished". The question is for seeking information and the information cannot be furnished for particular reasons. So the question is answered.

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—I expect a reply to my question whether the Government have seen the news published in the "Gomathi" with regard to this.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Government has not had the occasion to read this particular article.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—May I know after all whether there is anything for the Government to hold an enquiry into. May I also know from the Government whether as a matter of fact there is anything before it so as to necessitate an enquiry confidential or otherwise.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I am sorry I cannot give an answer.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Then why are we here. What is there confidential in it. Will the Members in the Treasury Bench be pleased to state whether the Government are in possession of any materials upon which any sort of enquiry whether confidential or otherwise could be held?

President.—I think that as the Government has answered that the whole matter is confidential you cannot expect any further reply.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—May I know whether there is any matter, on which an enquiry could be conducted. They have to say only yes or no?

President.—But before they can say that, they have to satisfy themselves by going through the papers.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—I want to know as a member of the Council whether they have in possession any material which necessitated any action being taken in this matter?

Mr. A. Sankara Menon.—On another point of order. The Government have stated that the matter is confidential. I submit that no member can ask any further question with regard to that matter.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Which matter is confidential.

President.—The matter of the question.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—I am not asking about the contents of the matter. Let it be any matter. I want to know whether there is any matter at all.

Mr. A. Sankara Menon.—These remarks are out of order.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Is it the Member for Ernakulam the man to say that another member is out of order. Another

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Member has also raised a point of order. We cannot have two Presidents here, whoever the man may be and whatever be his position.

Mr. A. Sankara Podural.—I am here dealing with the position and rights of the Municipal administration which is said to be a self-governing authority. I am here as a Member of the Council which has an important status and it is a higher form of self-government. We are particularly anxious about the rights granted to our Municipalities. If the Hon'ble Members on the Treasury Bench are not prepared to say whether there is any matter at all these self-governing institutions are reduced to a farce.

What self-government is granted to us is now denied. This is a vital question. There is no question of order here. I want to know whether there is any matter before the Government so as to necessitate any enquiry confidential or otherwise into the Municipality which is said to be a self-governing institution. These are not matters for joking.

President.—From the nature of the answer given by the Government I do not think there is any possibility of supplementing the question because the whole matter is treated confidential.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Is the ruling of the President to the effect that no further supplementary questions can be asked on this point?

President.—Yes.

365. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Chairman of the Trichur Municipality has submitted his explanation with reference to his being called upon to show cause why he should not be removed;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will a copy of the explanation be printed and placed on the Council Table?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.— (a) and (b). Government regret that the matter being confidential the information asked for cannot be furnished.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know, in view of the Hon. President's ruling, whether I will be in order if I ask any supplementary question?

President.—I am sorry You cannot ask.

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